

TITLE**IMAGEABLE ELEMENT COMPRISING SULFATED POLYMERS****ABSTRACT**

Sulfated polymers, imageable elements containing these polymers, and
5 methods for preparing images useful as lithographic printing plates from these
imageable elements are disclosed. The sulfate groups are attached either to aryl
groups that are pendent to the polymer backbone, and/or to alkyl groups that are
either pendant to the polymer backbone and/or part of the polymer backbone.
The elements can be thermally imaged and developed in water or in fountain
10 solution so that an alkaline developer is not required. They can be imaged and
developed on press using fountain solution so that it is unnecessary to mount
them in a separate exposure device.